

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM

Form WRP-PA-1E

Pennsylvania Ranking Criteria (12-96)

Enrollee _____

Business ID _____

County _____ Tract No. _____

Easement: Perm _____
30-Year _____

ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

I. Location Totals

- A. Special Project Area
- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|-------|
| 1. SE and Lower Susquehanna River | 20 | _____ |
| 2. Northeast & Northwest | 10 | _____ |
- B. Proximity to Riparian Area
- | | | |
|--------------|---|-------|
| 1. Adjoining | 5 | _____ |
| 2. ≤500 feet | 3 | _____ |
- Riparian Easement Multiplier – Use only if the WRP Easement includes the riparian area.
--points _____ x 2 = _____

II. Size of Contiguous Easement

(round to whole acre)

- | | |
|------------------|----|
| 1. ≥20 acres | 10 |
| 2. 15 – 19 acres | 6 |
| 3. 10 – 14 acres | 4 |
| 4. 5-9 acres | 2 |

Add 1 point for every acre over 20 acres.

-- maximum is 20 additional points + _____

III. Hydrology

- A. Hydric Soil Area to be Restored (% of hydric soil Acreage that will not have hydrology restored)
- | | | |
|--------------|----|-------|
| 1. 80 – 100% | 10 | _____ |
| 2. 60 – 79% | 6 | _____ |
| 3. 40 – 59% | 2 | _____ |

CONSIDER ONLY HYDRIC SOILD WITHIN EASEMENT

Include any recent wetland restoration, but no existing natural wetlands.

B. Planned Water Depth

≥60% of Water Surface Area <1 ft.	10
≥40% of Water Surface Area <1 ft.	6
>25% & <40% of Water Surface Area ≥3 ft.	4
≥40% of Water Surface Area ≥3 ft.	2
PROJECTS SHOULD NOT EXCEED 50% >3 ft.	_____

C. Saturated Soils Above Water Line Elevation

(Surface Area <1 ft. elev. above planned permanent water line, as % of Permanent Pool Area)		
≥200%	(2:1)	10
≥100%	(1:1)	6
≥ 50%	(0.5:1)	2

D. Source of Hydrology

Perennial Flow

< 25% of water from perennial flow	6
≥ 25% & ≤50% of water from perren. Flow	4
> 50% of water from perennial flow	2

Surface Water Multiplier

<10:1 Watershed Area to Pool Area		
-- Points _____ x 3	=	
≥10:1 Watershed Area to Pool Area		
-- Points _____ x 1	=	
≥20:1 Watershed Area to Pool Area		
-- Points _____ x 0.5	=	_____

IV. **Buffer Included in Easement**

(upland or existing natural wetland)

1. Surrounds hydric soil area (95 – 100%)	5
2. 75 – 94% of hydric soil perimeter	4
3. 50 – 74% of hydric soil perimeter	3
4. 25 – 49% of hydric soil perimeter	2

CONSIDER ONLY HYDRIC SOIL PERIMETERS WITHIN EASEMENT

Buffer Width (average) Multiplier

100 feet or more	-- points _____ x 3 =	
50 feet to 99 feet	-- points _____ x 2 =	_____

V. **Vegetated Wetlands Expected in 10 Years**

≥ 20% forested wetlands (tree species)	5
≥ 20% shrub wetlands	5
< 20% open water NOTE: Less Than	5
ADD 5 points for each that applies	_____

ECONOMIC CRITERIA

Totals

VI. **Restoration Cost**

(divide restoration cost by total easement area)

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|-------|
| 1. Less than \$100 per acre | 10 | |
| 2. \$100 – 249 per acre | 6 | |
| 3. \$249 – 499 per acre | 4 | |
| 4. \$500 – 750 per acre | 2 | _____ |

PROJECTS SHOULD NOT EXCEED \$1000 PER ACRE

VII. **Landowner Contributions (including other non-Federal Sources)**

A. Easement Payment Reduction (Bids are Optional)

- | | | |
|--|----|-------|
| 1. USDA Payment Reduced by $\geq 75\%$ | 20 | |
| 2. USDA Payment Reduced by $\geq 50\%$ | 15 | |
| 3. USDA Payment Reduced by $\geq 25\%$ | 10 | _____ |

B. Restoration

- | | | |
|----------------|----|-------|
| 1. $\geq 40\%$ | 10 | |
| 2. $\geq 25\%$ | 6 | |
| 3. $\geq 10\%$ | 2 | _____ |

TOTAL SCORE _____

OTHER CRITERIA (check off)

Documentation must be attached.

- ___ Endangered Species
___ Coal Rights (controlled by bidder)
___ Public Access to be allowed

SIGNATURES _____

District Conservationist

FWS (or Representative)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRP

RANKING CRITERIA (Form WRP-PA-1E, dated 12-96)

Enrollee: The person or corporation who controls the land.

Business ID: BUSINESS ID in FOCS

Tract No.: Only if FSA already has assigned a tract number. Persons enrolled in WRP will be

Required to comply with Food Security Act requirements.

Easement: Check one, Permanent or 30 – easement.

I. Location

A. Special Project Areas: Only the following counties

COUNTIES ARE ONLY LISTED ONCE, IN THE HIGHEST CATEGORY

SE and Lower Susquehanna River (20 pts.)

Adams, Berks, Buck, Chester, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Franklin, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, Snyder, Union, York.

Northeast and Northwest (15 pts.)

Bradford, Clarion, Carbon, Crawford, Erie, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mercer, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Venango, Warren, Wayne, Wyoming

Maximum score – 20 points

B. Proximity to Riparian Area: Measure from the edge of the proposed WRP easement boundary nearest to the stream to the edge of the natural riparian vegetation, or the edge of the stream if the riparian area is in agricultural use (pasture or cropland).

Multiplier: Certain Riparian Areas are eligible for WRP easements, these riparian areas may be up to 300 feet wide on each side of the stream (measured from the stream edge). In these instances the entire WRP easement will usually be contiguous (score of 5 points above).

Maximum score – 10 points

- II. Size of Contiguous Easement: It is assumed there is only one easement area per tract (including buffers and riparian areas). If there are more than one, complete only one form per tract – list the actual acreage for each easement area in the margin and do not assign points for this criteria. The State Technical Committee will assign points.

Maximum score – 30 points

III. Hydrology

- A. Hydric Soil Area to be restored: Evaluate only hydric soil within the proposed easement. Estimate the percentage of the hydric soil acreage that has hydrology or will have hydrology restored.

Maximum score – 10 points

- B. Planned Water Depth: When wetland restoration will include open water, estimate the percent of the proposed pool surface area that will be more than three feet deep and the percent that will be less than one foot deep. NOTE: Projects that will only restore saturated soil conditions (no open water) will receive the maximum score.

Maximum Score – 10 points

- C. Saturated Soils above Water Line Elevation: Projects that are on flatter slopes with fine textured soils will have a larger fringe of saturated soils. Estimate the land area that will be between the water's edge and up to one foot in elevation above the permanent pool. This fringe area is then compared to the proposed pool surface area (percent or ratio).

Maximum Score – 10 points

- D. Source of Hydrology: Fluctuating hydrology provides more ecological diversity. Therefore, wetlands dominated by perennial (365 days a year) springs or streams, and/or large contributing watersheds (Multiplier) will be scored lower.

Maximum score – 18 points

- IV. Buffer Included in Easement: Assign points only if uplands, existing wetlands, or riparian areas are included in addition to the degraded (or recently restored) hydric soils that make the site eligible for WRP. Consider only the perimeters of hydric soil areas that are within the proposed easement (ignore any portion of a hydric soil area that extends beyond the proposed easement). When there are more than one hydric soil areas within the easement, estimate the overall average perimeter that has a buffer.

Multiplier: Estimate the overall average width of the buffer area. Do not use the multiplier if the average is less than 50 feet.

Maximum score – 15 points

- V. Vegetated Wetlands Expected in 10 Years: These are bonus points to be assigned if the landowner is interested in managing for these habitats and NRCS and FWS personnel are confident trees and/or shrubs will become established. Also, sites with a minimum of open water (> 3 ft. deep) are more likely to develop woody habitat.

Maximum score – 15 points

- VI. Restoration Cost: Use the total estimated restoration cost. Divide this cost by the entire proposed easement acreage.

Maximum score – 10 points

VII. Landowner Contributions

- A. Easement Payment: LANDOWNERS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO 'BID'. If other Non-Federal funds are provided from outside sources they may be credited to the landowner contribution. Use the appropriate land use Maximum Easement Value, cropland or pasture (use the pasture value for woodland), to estimate the USDA easement payment.

NOTE: The Maximum Easement Values for 30-year easements are 25% less than for permanent easements. Landowners choosing 30-year easements are not credited for that first 25% reduction in USDA easement payment.

If the landowner wants a certain dollar amount per acre, divide that amount by the weighted average (weighted by acreage) of the USDA easement payment – this will convert the bid to percent.

Maximum score – 20 points

- B. Restoration: If other Non-Federal funds are provided from outside sources they may be credited to the landowner contribution. Landowners with permanent easements are not Required to contribute to restoration costs. Landowners choosing 3-0-yuear easements are required to contribute 25% of the restoration costs and are not assigned points for the first 25% contribution.

Maximum score – 10 points

OTHER CRITERIA: These will not be considered without documentation.

Endangered Species covers all Species of Special Concern, whether federal or state. Enrollees who do not control Coal Rights underlying the easement area will receive a lower priority. Enrollees who will allow public access to be written into the easement compatible uses will receive a higher priority.

SIGNATURES: Both NRCS and a representative of the FWS must be present on-site to complete this form. The District Conservationist must sign for NRCS.